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Conceded

a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station;
wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

22. (Amended) A method of enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:
enabling the group pickup operation when there is an unanswered call at a member station anywhere on the network;
making local and/or remote connections to various group member stations which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations;
and establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station;
wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

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REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 9, 12, 15, and 22 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Deryugin et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,373,836 ("Deryugin"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Deryugin.

As discussed in the Specification, the present invention relates to an improved supplementary service for telephone system users. In particular, group pickup is a supplementary service often used by one member station of a group to answer or pick up telephone calls intended for or ringing at a different member station within the same

call group. The claims have been amended to recite more explicitly that the group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

In contrast, Deryugin relates to a central call center system and does not appear to have anything to do with a supplementary service in general, or group pickup in particular. As noted in the Specification, a supplementary service provides, e.g., convenience features to enhance calling convenience and functionality for a user. A call center is a system in which a plurality of agents handle customer communications, as in a customer service line. Deryugin, thus relates merely to processing calls at one or others of several call center locations.

Moreover, Deryugin's call center system relates to a centralize routing system, in which calls are routed, for example, based on a statistical analysis of usage. In contrast, embodiments of the present invention relate to an automatic mode unit that automatically searches for a group member that may be available to pick up a call and a manual mode unit that enables a group member, who hears a station ringing, to manually pick up a call.

As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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Marked Up Claims

1. (Amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

an invite request unit to invoke the group pickup system;

a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to a group pickup destination to enable a caller station to be pickup up from said destination, said destination being a user selectable location located on any server anywhere within the network; and

a retrieval request unit to connect a call pickup station with said caller station;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

9. (Amended) A method for picking up a call in a group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising the steps of:

invoking the group pickup system;

establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said caller to be parked at said destination, said destination being a user selectable parking location located anywhere within the network; and

connecting a call pickup party with said parked caller;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

12. (Amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

means for invoking the group pickup system;

means responsive to said invoking means for establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said caller to be parked at said destination, said

destination being a user selectable parking location located anywhere within the network; and

means for connecting a call pickup party with said parked caller;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

15. (Amended) A system for enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:

a request unit to enable operation of the group pickup system when there is an unanswered call at a member station;

a connect unit responsive to said request unit to make local and/or remote connections to various group member stations within the network which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and

a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

22. (Amended) A method of enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:

enabling the group pickup operation when there is an unanswered call at a member station anywhere on the network;

making local and/or remote connections to various group member stations which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations;

and establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.